



St. Louis Audubon Society



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DECEMBER 1994

St. Louis Audubon Sponsors Trip to Tropics

by Paul Bauer

Are you seeking a unique adventure? This winter, escape with a few of us to a tropical paradise at the "end of the rainbow." St. Louis Audubon is sponsoring a special trip to Trinidad and Tobago to enjoy 11 days in the tropics at a relaxed pace. Our tour from February 4 to 14, 1995, is an outstanding opportunity to experience the tremendous amount of wildlife almost at your fingertips. Treat your sweetheart to a very special Valentine gift!

First, we will spend 6 days at the Asa Wright Nature Center, a wildlife sanctuary nestled in Trinidad's rainforested Northern Range. For more than 2 decades, this important study area, home to a nesting colony of the nocturnal oilbird, has served as an introduction to the tropics for thousands of visitors from throughout the world.

Channel-billed toucans, bearded bellbirds, crested oropendola, and scores of brilliant scarlet ibis coming to roost in Caroni Swamp are all part of the spectacular avian life of this vibrant island, home also to the magical man-made sounds of calypso and steel bands. Our tour concludes with 3 days at Blue Waters Inn on the quiet, beach-fringed island of Tobago, with its colorful endemic species and famous coral reefs.

Those who came to our special program on November 18 saw the numerous experiences that our tour will enjoy. Included are dozens of colorful birds such as tanagers, hummingbirds, and honeycreepers that visit the feeders at the Asa Wright Nature Center, plus short walks to see oilbirds at Dunstan Cave and white-bearded manakins displaying on their lek.

All this and numerous flowers and butterflies right on the Nature Center

trails! Several side trips to other areas of Trinidad add many other adventures. On Tobago our treks include glass bottom boat rides and snorkeling opportunities on the coral reefs, along with a stunning visit to colonies of sea birds including red-billed tropicbirds!

This is a very popular trip. We had to wait 2 years to get this opening during the ideal dry season. There is space for only 15 persons, and we have 3,000 members. Don't be left out! If you have any interest in the exciting tropics, call to request that additional information be mailed to you.

Call Paul Bauer at 921-3972
before you put this newsletter aside!

Wetland Reserve Program Visit Turns into Birders' Delight

by Mary Lou Miller

Twenty-five Auduboners met at 6:30 am on October 9 for a trip to the Wetland Reserve Program area near Marshall, Missouri. We arrived in

Columbia at 8:30 am and met our contact, Steve Young, the Department of Conservation's employee who works with the Soil Conservation Service. The area around Marshall had received 3 1/2 inches of rain the night before, so Steve told us we would be in "much muck" if we tried to go into the area. Panic! What were we going to do with a bus load of people all day? Quickly, we did a scan of a Missouri map to set a course for the day.

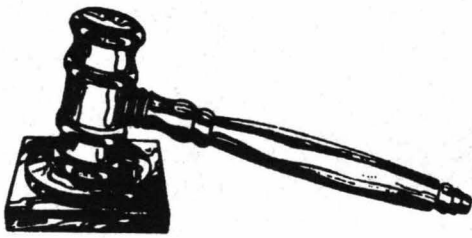
We headed north for the Thomas Hill Reservoir near Moberly. The reservoir was beautiful. We piled out of the bus to be greeted by about 100 white pelicans on the lake. We also saw many cormorants, heron, a few hawks in the air, and coots on the lake. Many of our people brought scopes, and everyone had binoculars. Gorgeous weather with warm sun and blue skies topped off our day.

We then traveled to Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Our contact there was to meet us at 2 pm, and we were an hour late. Needless to say, he had not waited. We stopped at headquarters and took note of an area map. Swan Lake itself had been drained for repair--no water whatever. This was upsetting for we were concerned we wouldn't find any water on the refuge. However, we headed for the other lake on the refuge, Silver Lake.

As we drove up the levee road to the lake with a field between us and the water, we saw numerous kinds of birds on the lake and in the air. We again piled out of the bus and walked across the field to the lake. Looking across the lake, we saw about 25 white pelicans in a single line going from one end of the lake to the other, flying just above the water and flapping their wings slowly. It was a wonderful sight. These pelicans were joining a huge flock of pelicans already on the water. Our estimated pelican count for the day was 400.



See Wetlands on page 7



From Your President

by Mary Lou Miller

NAS Biennial Convention

From November 11th through the 14th, I attended the National Audubon Society (NAS) Biennial Convention in Fort Myers, Florida. The convention drew approximately 900 members from all over the U.S. and even some foreign countries. Many of our West Central Region chapters from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas were represented.

Many terrific facilitators and speakers led various workshops and special meetings. The more notable speakers who addressed us at the general sessions included Congressman Porter Goss; Nat Reed, former NAS board member and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Claudine Laabs, photographer from Palm Beach; Col. "Rock" Terrence Salt, Dept. of the Interior; Peter Matthiessen, author; and Dr. Sylvia Earle, marine biologist and former chief scientist of NOAA. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt was also scheduled but canceled due to illness.

At the Great Egret Dinner, Former President Jimmy Carter received our Society's highest honor, the 1994 Audubon Medal. Carter gave an inspiring speech encouraging us not to dismay over the recent elections, but try to make new coalitions with other organizations and work with Congress to come to mutually supported environmental legislation.

I tried to attend as many of the sessions as possible for ideas and information. My suitcase was stuffed full of handouts from the various sessions, chapter displays, and agency booths. However, some of the best information brought back from the convention came from the informal discussions at the late-night dinners, during the breaks, and *after* the sessions. Talking directly to other members gave me insight into what other chapters are doing across the country.

Through these discussions, we can measure how well our chapter is doing.

However from my perspective, the most important organized activity of the convention was the initial meeting of the NAS Board of Directors with the consulting firm of McKinsey & Company. McKinsey was recently hired to conduct a year-long strategic planning process through a grant obtained by President Peter Berle. McKinsey will coordinate this process on a pro bono basis, with payment for expenses only. For more information on this important process, please refer to a separate article about it in this newsletter.

This was my first trip to Florida, so I had to visit the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge and also took a full-day field trip to the Everglades Ten Thousand Lakes Area and Big Cypress Bend Swamp. My whole idea of the Everglades has changed! It is much *bigger* and more *diverse* than I ever expected! We are now seeing signs that various agencies and the state of Florida are working together to restore this nationally important ecosystem.

The Audubon Society is also playing an important role in this restoration endeavor. If you would like to help, please write to National Audubon Society, Everglades System Restoration Campaign, 160 N.W. 176th Street, Suite 202, Miami, FL 33169.

Audubon Birdseed Sale Successful

Despite the continuous rain on November 5, a hardy crew of 5 people undauntedly hauled and loaded bags and bags of birdseed for customers of Audubon's annual birdseed sale, held this year at the Kirkwood Community Center.

Thanks to **Diane Johnson** and **Sue Smith** for co-chairing this event, which netted a profit of approximately \$625. Diane said that it was "quite a bonding experience" as the group worked together in the rain. Diane and Sue thank **Howard Adams** and his quick ability with his 2-wheel dolly and **Jerry Castillon** for the use of his Jeep Cherokee to transport the bags from the building to cars. **Rex Schmidt** was the other valuable crew member, who also ventured to McDonalds for lunch for everyone.

Thanks, also, to all of Audubon's birdseed customers!

Get to Know . . .

Rex Gary Schmidt

(This is the second of a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

As a family, we traveled frequently during my youth--from the Gulf Coast to the Dakotas from our home in Southern Illinois. In the process, I developed an interest in wildlife, biology, and the environment. Drawing, painting, and photography became my major interests, and they developed into a lifetime career serving both state and federal governments.

Motion picture production, flying and diving were of growing interest and provided the opportunity to add dimension to creative production skills which led to employment with Missouri, the U.S. government, North Carolina, and finally with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Writing skills finally permitted my becoming editor of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's magazines.

After 40 plus years of government service and 3 retirements, I continue to photograph, video tape, and interpret wildlife scenes.

Present activities include Audubon affairs and 2 local art groups in the St. Louis area. Recently, my wife and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary joined by our 3 children, 20 or so grandchildren and great grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Conservationist of the Year Nominees Needed

Nominations for the St. Louis Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year should be sent by **March 1, 1995** to:

Julie Wells
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126

This award will be presented at St. Louis Audubon's Annual Dinner on April 21, 1995.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Bird Walks

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. Call leader for confirmation & more information.

Riverlands -- *Saturday, January 14, 1995* at 8 am. On Mississippi River near Alton. Go north on Hwy 367 from I-270 in north St. Louis Co. Hwy 367 joins US 67 & crosses Missouri River. Continue to last large gas station in MO & turn right into Riverlands; meet at Riverlands map/sign just beyond gas station. Leader: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Riverlands -- *Saturday, February 18, 1995* at 8 am. See directions in above entry. Leader: Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

95th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Pere Marquette State Park, IL. -- *Saturday, December 17.* For more info., call Irene Mondthink, H# 618/885-5233.

Busch Wildlife Area -- *Sunday, December 18.* For more info., call Tom Parmeter, H# 921-6017.

Orchard Farm in St. Charles County -- *Sunday, January 1, 1995.* For more info., call Randy Korotev, H# 935-5637 or 993-0055.

Audubon Family Nature Adventure

Family Trip to Eagle Days at Clarksville -- *Saturday, January 28, 1995.* For details call Karen Haller, H# 227-5693 or Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Other Audubon-Related Activities

St. Louis Audubon Breakfast Meeting -- *Saturday, January 21, 1995.* Meet at 8 am at Best Western, 1130 S. Kirkwood. Come for conversation & sit-down breakfast--\$8 with gratuity. Casual & informal. Program on wildlife art. First 50 reservations accepted--deadline is Wednesday, January 18. Call Mary Lou Miller, H# 389-3969.

WGNSS/St. Louis Audubon Joint Meeting -- *Friday, February 3, 1995.* For more info., call Mary Dueren, H# 576-1473.

Missouri Audubon Council Meeting -- *Saturday, February 4, 1995,* in Jefferson City from 9 am to 3 pm. For more info., call Bill Salsgiver, H# 225-1490.

Special Events

Environmental Roundtable Summit -- *Saturday, January 14, 1995* at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgeway Center, from 10 am to 5 pm. General & break-out sessions, lunch, & cocktail reception. Goal of summit: to produce a 1-3 year strategic plan for improving collaboration & effectiveness of St. Louis area environmental/conservation organizations. If interested in attending, call Mary Lou Miller, H# 389-3969.

MO Conservation Dept. Eagle Days -- *Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29, 1995* at Clarksville, 9 am to 4 pm. Volunteers needed to work at Audubon booth. Call Bill Salsgiver, H# 225-1490.

Endangered Species Forum -- *Saturday, February 18, 1995* at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Co-sponsored by St. Louis Audubon, St. Louis Zoo, & the Garden. Focus on how Endangered Species Act helps all of us. Morning presentations followed by lobbying training in the afternoon. Open to the public. For more info., call Louise Bradshaw, H# 771-9350.

Can Turkeys Swim?

by Paul Bauer

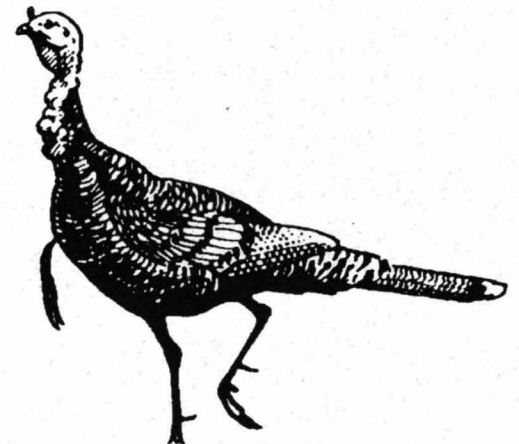
Two winters ago several friends and I had a unique experience along the Mississippi River in St. Charles County. This was the winter just prior to the massive flood of 1993. Each year during the last half of December, the National Audubon Society has been sponsoring Christmas Bird Counts since 1900.

These local bird counts were started to provide people with an alternative to the then traditional wildlife hunting activities during the winter holidays. In the St. Louis area, there have been several Christmas Bird Counts that have been actively attended since the early 1930's. This story took place on the count centered at Orchard Farm and Missouri Highway 94 in eastern St. Charles County.

Since a count circle is 15 miles in diameter, the count area is divided into numerous smaller areas that can be thoroughly covered on foot and by car in 4 to 6 hours by several birders for each area. For this count there has also been a tradition to have lunch at the Hager Hinge Company Lodge, so we can socialize and warm up while enjoying our sack lunch. When we get permission to use the lodge, we also get the chance to survey the birds on the private gun club's property.

It was just after lunch when Randy, Mike, and I started hiking through this lush mature bottomland forest. We were kept busy counting each type of sparrow or woodpecker we found, as well as counting the numerous ducks resting and feeding in the many sloughs scattered within this wet forest. We were following a mud road that meandered through the woods to the Mississippi River.

As we approached the river, Mike lingered behind in the woods to try to find some new species,



Continued on next page

such as yellow-rumped warbler or brown creeper, while Randy and I forged ahead. Just as we reached the rocky river bank, Randy and I flushed a turkey! What an odd location for a turkey, which we would normally expect to find in heavy forest. Without thinking and in fear, this turkey started flying directly over the river to get away from us. Turkeys can run fast, but they are very weak flyers, and the river is more than a half-mile wide here, just below Grafton, Illinois. We watched almost in horror as the turkey tried to gain altitude, but he was running out of energy. He seemed to flap his wings faster, but he was still coming closer to the water. Finally in desperation, he quit flapping and sailed in for a belly-flop landing in the river. This must have been embarrassing to the bird! Soon this large, plump, round bird had sunk so that its back was just slightly above the water, and it was drifting downstream about 600 feet from shore.

At this time Mike rejoined us and wanted to know what had happened. We showed Mike the bird far out in the water but wouldn't tell him what it was. We said, "Mike, twenty questions! What bird is that?" Poor Mike was trapped. The bird was big and low in the water like a loon, but there were no white markings on the back. The bill was tipped up like a cormorant, but it was too short. Mike's initial guesses were very logical because he is a careful observer, but every time we told him he was wrong, he became more frustrated. After about 8 guesses, Randy and I had to share our story because we could tell that the game was straining our friendship. As we all stood on the riverbank watching, we could hardly believe what we were experiencing and wondered what would happen to the turkey.

Well, turkeys may not be super smart, but nature takes care of its creatures. It seemed that the turkey was paddling hard with its (unwebbed) feet as it was drifting downstream. After considerable time, we watched this large, soggy blob haul itself from the river, shake vigorously, and climb up the bank and disappear into the brush. We were not able to find that turkey again! We all had a good laugh over our unusual experience, and it had a happy ending.

This year join us for one or more of the local Christmas Bird Counts and get in on the birding fun even in winter.

THE CONSERVATION CORNER

Ducks Make a Comeback

by Jim Holsen

It is always a pleasure to find an environmental program that not only works well, but which is successful in ways not at first anticipated. That is the case with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), created by the Farm Security Act of 1985.

Enacted to encourage farmers to take fragile, easily erodible land out of production for 10 years and plant it with protective cover crops to reduce soil erosion, the program is credited with placing more than 10 million acres of farmland in the pothole regions of Montana and North and South Dakota into grassland reserves which now provide prime nesting habitat for puddle ducks (mallards, pintails, teal, gadwalls, widgeons, and shovelers) and the many diving ducks (including canvasbacks, redheads, ring-necked ducks, lesser scaup, and goldeneye) which also breed in freshwater marshes.

The 10 million acres are approximately equal to one quarter of the area of Missouri. Overall, approximately 36 million acres, much of it in the Midwest, are enrolled in the CRP. Farmers receive a yearly payment that helps to compensate them for crops not grown, and the government saves on the subsidies that encourage surplus crops. Here in Missouri, the CRP and the related Wetland Reserve Program are helping to restore wildlife habitat in the farmlands devastated by the 1993 flood.

Across the central "drift plains" of the Dakotas, glacial drift, marked by successive moraines, has left a land of small lakes or potholes, varying in size from a few yards to a few miles in diameter. Despite efforts to reclaim this ground for agriculture, a large part of this area is still cut off from drainage outlets to the

adjoining Missouri and Red River valleys.

Exceptionally wet weather in the winter of 1993-94 and in the spring and summer of 1994 contributed to the formation of an estimated 6 million ponds in the prairies of north central United States and Canada, nearly 50 percent more than were present a year earlier. In the pothole regions of the Dakotas, the number of ponds doubled. As a result, over North America the populations of the 10 most common species of ducks are up 24 percent over last year, to 32.5 million.

This increase can be credited for the most part to the better habitat in Montana and the Dakotas, where the duck population this year is approximately twice that of last year--in direct proportion to the number of potholes. Both precipitation and grasslands were required to create a habitat conducive to successful breeding. Precipitation was the result of an act of nature; the grasslands were the result of an act of Congress.

Here in St. Louis, as this is written in late November, we have not been seeing large numbers of ducks. That situation could change rapidly with the cold fronts that are predicted.

There is speculation that waterfowl do not linger long because the food supply has not fully recovered from the flood. It is also possible that this year, for whatever reason, some species are later than usual, or more variable, in their fall migration. The weather this fall has been much warmer than last year--as can be seen from the "heating degree days" published in the Sunday and Monday editions of the *Post-Dispatch*. While many species normally migrate through in November, December is usually a good month for canvasbacks, goldeneyes, and common mergansers, among others.

The Riverlands Demonstration Area on the Mississippi River near Alton, maintained by the Corps of Engineers, is as good a place as any to observe



migrating waterfowl. Take Highway 67 north to the new bridge at Alton; turn right (east) at the FISCA service station just before reaching the bridge. While looking for ducks in the river and adjacent sloughs, search the surrounding trees, especially on the river side of the service road, for bald eagles; they may appear as large black shapes in the branches. Call the Tyson Research Center/Webster Groves Nature Study Society hotline at 935-8432 to get a recorded report on recent waterfowl and other bird sightings.



1995 Farm Bill Important to Conservationists

by Jim Holsen

Congress overhauls the Farm Bill every 5 years. The 1995 Farm Bill promises to be particularly important. The major part of the bill, running recently at \$9 billion per year, is for commodity supports. Other expenditures have been for research and education, including sustainable agriculture and control of polluted runoff, and for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Since Congress failed to renew the Clean Water Act, there is speculation that the provisions of that act may be included in the Farm Bill. If so, responsibility for those environmental concerns will shift to the House Agriculture Committee, which authorizes legislation and sets farm policy.

CRP has been popular with farmers—not only with those who have lands in the program, but also with those who benefit from the higher prices that come with restricted production. The first of the 10-year contracts, which were authorized in the 1985 Farm Bill, will soon begin to expire, and there is concern that much of the reserve land will once again be planted in crops. The Department of

Agriculture is considering extending those early contracts for a year or two, until the new bill is in place. Under current legislation, authorized funding for CRP takes a nose dive in 1997.

Hot debate is expected to surround the future, if any, of CRP. The program has been criticized by some environmental groups for failing to meet its goals for the conservation of top soil. In the meantime, however, the goals of the program itself have been shifting. According to the *Farm Journal*, the Department of Agriculture sees environmental concerns moving “beyond soil erosion to broader issues of soil quality, water quality and nonpoint source pollution, riparian areas, wetland enhancement and restoration, grazing lands, endangered species, and wildlife habitat.”

The new session of Congress promises to be an interesting one. No one can predict the details of the Farm Bill that will finally emerge, but one will be passed because the subsidies are valued by farmers and the agribusinesses that depend on them.

NAS Strategic Planning Process Wants Your Input

by Mary Lou Miller

All Audubon members are invited to participate in the National Audubon Society Strategic Planning process by addressing the following six questions. Please send these comments to National Audubon Society, Strategic Planning Group, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. The phone number is 212-979-3094 (leave a message) or Fax 800-636-4443. For your comments to be included in a soon-to-be published summary report, they need to be received by the end of the year.

1. What is the NAS's “unique value” proposition? What does Audubon do “best”? How does that differ from the work of other national or local organizations?
2. What should be Audubon's major roles and priorities? The 3 most important roles, the 3 least important roles? How important, for example, is our commitment to education?

3. What is the realistic development/fund-raising outlook for Audubon and its chapters? Can we raise significantly more money? If so, from whom and how?

4. What are the 4 or 5 “core processes” (major activities) by which Audubon should carry out its mission? How do they work today? How can they be improved?

5. What services can/should the national organization supply to the chapters/regions? What role(s) should the regions play and what services should they provide to chapters?

6. How can cooperation and teamwork be improved between the chapters and the national organization? (List 5 or 6 specific ideas.)

Below is the timetable of events proposed in this process. If you have any questions on NAS strategic planning, please call Mary Lou Miller, H# 389-3969.

November - December: “Tuning In”

- Conduct initial interviews with board members, staff, and NAS members.
- Identify key issues and prioritize for analysis.
- Agree on work plan for future phases.

January - March: “Situation Analysis/Basic Conclusions”

- Profile conservation “industry” and key players (forces at work).
- Explore performance requirements of mission elements.
- Identify relative strengths and weaknesses of NAS (both programmatic and organizational).
- Develop hypothesis on appropriate strategy/organization for NAS.

April - May: “Recommendations Development/Testing”

- Test, refine, and strengthen NAS strategy recommendations.
- Develop organizational implications of strategy.
- Communicate strategy and organizational implications throughout NAS.
- Prepare implementation plan.

Ongoing: “Implementation/Rollout”

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



THE EDUCATION CORNER

Birding, Computers, and the Information Superhighway

by Mary Dueren

I know the parts of this title sound as if they don't quite go together, but the simple fact is, they do. People who have been bitten by the birding "bug" find they are keeping lists of what they saw, when they saw it, how many, etc., etc. Computers are ideal record storage keepers for this information.

I use a very simple software package called My Treasures. This software has many uses: cataloging video libraries, wine cellars, coin collections, home inventories, and bird sightings. This program requires 256K DOS 2.0 or greater on an IBM, Tandy, or compatible. This software is under \$10.

There are many other birding software programs on the market, like BirdCount+ and BirdBase3. Both of these programs are for IBM and compatibles and require hard drives and a minimum of 640K. The costs of these programs are \$44.95 and \$59.95, respectively. Information on ordering can be found in *Bird Watcher's Digest* and other birding magazines.

These are useful tools, and good record keeping can be a useful tool to the amateur ornithologist. But computing is also not just for record keeping. It can also be a wonderful educational tool.

Most of the computer store shelves are stocked with word processing programs, spreadsheets, war games, and golf games. Children's educational games are dominated by math and spelling. In my excursions to the software store, I have found a growing stock of science-based games and educational tools. One of the more popular series is the SIM series. SIM Ant, SIM City, and SIM Earth rely on not only the sciences, but other knowledge as well. Another science-based game is Puddles to Pondwater, described as a learning adventure. I know I've had a great deal of fun playing a curious biologist with this game. Check out your local computer

or software store for the latest in science. Recent hot sellers include Microsoft's Astronaut simulator.

Yes, even birding has reached the Internet, the information superhighway. After attending a conference in Kansas City last summer, Mary Lou Miller and I both agreed that a lot of the information had been passed back and forth along the Internet. We both agreed that it was time to figure this "stuff" out. So, with the help of my husband, I have been exploring the superhighway of information.

It is truly amazing to see how much information there is. Even the National Audubon Society is getting involved. Universities and governments alike are there for the choosing. If you have the computer capabilities, log on to any of the services that get you to the Internet, and look for "net.rec.birds." Also, another "internet" is growing. This one, called Eco-net, is comprised of many ecology and conservation groups. Our Audubon chapter is beginning to explore these functions and will provide our members an address on the Internet or Eco-net as soon as we become more knowledgeable of how this system works.

Birding in this day and age can certainly lead to other paths of knowledge. Computers and the Internet will be beneficial tools to the birders of the future.

Binoculars Needed

St. Louis Audubon is once again in need of binoculars for our bird walks for beginners and other educational programs. If you have recently bought new binoculars, please consider donating your old binoculars to us. We can use any kind you may have of various powers. We also have school classrooms asking for donations of binoculars. This is one way for us to help in our environmental education.

Thank you for considering us. Call Mary Lou Miller, H# 389-3969 evenings and weekends, and we'll arrange to pick them up.

1994 CCA Campaign Continues by Mary Dueren

The Community Club Awards sponsored by the Cable Advertising Network of Greater Saint Louis is going strong. Receipts from the 1994 CCA sponsors are coming in on a regular basis, but we can use lots more help. This fundraiser ends January 24, 1995 (although we save proofs-of-purchase year round).

Here's an updated list of sponsors and what to save:

AAA Insurance: save copies of estimates & receipts
Alternative Grille & Fireside Shoppe: save receipts, bonus point slips, & business cards
Alton Belle: save ticket stubs & receipts from restaurant
Arby's: save receipts
Bunny Bread: save wrappers
Carpet & Tile Bargains: save receipts
Crossroads Furniture: save receipts
Famous-Barr: save receipts
Fashion Bug: save receipts
Goedeker's Superstore: save receipts & bonus slips (big bonuses given for viewing the home theater system!)
Harster Heating & Air: save receipts
Healthy Life Bread: save wrappers
Imo's Pizza: save receipts
Insty Prints: save receipts
Mid-West Floor: save receipts
The Munny: save receipts
Open Hearth Bread: save wrappers
Schnucks Markets: save receipts from groceries, florist, photofinishing, video, & restaurant; Schnucks Super Soda cans & Schnucks Natural Springs 1-liter bottles, & labels from Schnucks products
Sleep Station: save receipts
Stanley Steemer: save receipts
Staufen's Music House: save receipts
Suburban Journals: save receipts from classified ads, display ads, & subscriptions; clip and save the CCA update in the food sections of the *Wednesday Journals*
Sunset Ford: save receipts
Zam's Party Stores: save receipts

Please continue to forward any of these items to the 1994 CCA chairpersons:

Helen & Harry Nettler
3530 Roy Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63114

If you have any questions about the CCA campaign, please call Mary Dueren at 576-1473 in the evenings.

Audubon Camps

by Julie Wells

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer 3 scholarships to the Audubon ecology camps run by the National Audubon Society. The camps are located in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming and are held throughout the summer months. Attendance at an Audubon camp can enrich your life.

The scholarships cover the cost of the 6- or 7-day session fee. Transportation costs are the responsibility of the selected recipients.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information will be sent to the science coordinators of the St. Louis school districts in January, 1995. Interested applicants unable to obtain this information from their science coordinator should contact:

Julie Wells
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126
Ph.# 962-2093

People interested in attending a camp on their own or obtaining information on other U.S. and international Audubon ecology workshops should contact:

**National Audubon Society
Camps & Ecology Workshops**
613 Riversville Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831
Ph.# (203)869-2017

WETLANDS

Continued from page 1

We couldn't count the number of giant Canada geese--there were so many. A disturbance caused the geese to take off and circle the water at one point. Fran Bauer said she would bet there was an eagle in the area. Sure enough, a bald eagle was spotted on the ground eating some kind of bird--thought to be a snow goose. When someone asked how we knew that, our "scientific" answer was, "Well, you can see the white feathers being plucked off the bird." Four great blue heron and 3 giant egrets could be seen plus 1 blue-fronted goose in the middle of the geese. One of our group brought a headset and microphone. It was very powerful and could pick up the noises from the birds across the lake. It was noted that we were seeing very few ducks. The duck migration had not yet started in full force.

From our position in the field, we could see at the other end of the lake what looked to be a large black area on the water. No one could make out what it was. We got back in the bus and headed for the other end of the lake on the levee road. Halfway there, we spotted about 25 white pelicans floating on the water near the road in fishing formation. The driver slowly edged forward until we were almost to them, and several people got pictures. We went on to the other end, and as we neared, we could see that the black area was a huge flock of coots.

Paul Bauer, noted birder from our area, said he had never seen such a huge flock of coots in one area. We slowly made our way around the lake to a shallower area and spotted killdeer, sandpipers, and a few more ducks.

Through this trip, many of us added white pelicans to our life list. One passenger added the bald eagle to her list. I do think everyone had a great time. A big thank you to Paul Bauer, who made the trip such a success by helping with bird identification and by mapping out our plan for the day.

What started out to be a learning experience on wetlands turned into something special for many of us. We are talking about new trips of this kind in the future. How about a trip to Kearney, Nebraska, to attend the National Audubon Society West Central Regional River Conference and see the sandhill cranes on the Platte River in March?



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

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Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Send application to:
Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:
National Audubon Society
If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
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Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call (314) 389-8707.

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